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REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 9 Feb. 1954

SUBJECT Mining Apprentice School No. 28

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REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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a. Internal Passport, issued by the Passport Office, Kagarlyk Rayon.

b. Birth Certificate (metrika)

c. Education Certificate (svidetel'stvo ob obrazovanii)

d. Family Status Certificate (svidetel'stvo o semeynom polozenii)

No entrance examination was required for this apprentice school.

3. The faculty of the Mining Apprentice School No. 28 consisted of the following:

a. School Principal

b. Deputy for Education

c. Several instructors

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4. The school had an enrollment of 250 to 300 male students, 16 and 17 years of age (born 1931 and 1932), recruited mainly from Kiev and Poltava Oblasti. The students were divided into four training groups, as follows:

- a. Timbermen (krepil'shchik)
- b. Loaders (navalooboyshchik)
- c. Cutters (zaboyshchik)
- d. Drillers (buril'shchik)

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The length of the course for all groups was six months.

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all groups had approximately the same strength. Each group was broken down into several platoons, with 15 to 20 students in each one. Each platoon had a platoon leader who was a mining foreman and specialist in the type of mining activity in which the group was to be trained.

5. The first three or four weeks in the school were devoted to theoretical instruction in mining. This instruction consisted of a description of the types of coal, its quality, composition, the various positions of coal layers, normal coal mining procedures, and the other work done in coal mines. The school had several classrooms in which this instruction was given.

6. After this initial instruction, every day the students were taken to Coal Mine No. 13 Bis, where under the supervision of the platoon leaders, they performed the work they themselves had chosen to do as training.

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7. The following was the daily routine at Mining Apprentice School No. 28:

Reveille	0600
Breakfast	0700
Work in mine	0800 - 1600
Shower	1600 - 1700
Dinner	1700 - 1730
Free time	1730 - 2100
Supper	2100 - 2130
Free time	2130 - 2300
Taps	2300

8. The students had free billets in school dormitories; each dormitory had many rooms, each for 8 - 10 students. The school also provided uniforms, footwear, and underwear free of charge for the students. The uniform consisted of a blue tunic (military type) and blue trousers. As an overcoat a navy-cut black, double-breasted coat (bushlat) was worn. A blue visored, military type cap was worn with the uniform. A miner's insignia in the form of two crossed mining hammers was worn on the cap. The insignia GPSH-28 (Gorno-promyshlennaya shkola 28) was worn on the lapels of the bushlat.

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9. Food was also provided by the school and consisted of three meals daily.

a. Breakfast: soup or borsch; tea and sugar.

b. Dinner: soup or borsch; one meat or fish course; potatoes, macaroni, gruel, or the like.

c. Supper: gruel or the like; tea and sugar.

Four hundred grams of black bread was served with each meal, thereby making the daily bread ration 1.2 kg. for each student. Food was always sufficient in quantity and quite well prepared. The meals were served by waitresses in the school's mess.

10. Wages were paid to the students on the basis of actual work performed in the mine. The daily work norms prescribed for the miners did not apply to the students. In other words, there were no minimum production quotas prescribed for students; and there was no pressure put on them to perform more work than they actually wanted to do. In the beginning, my monthly wage was approximately 250 rubles; eventually it rose to 420 rubles. Some students made even more than that.

11. Work in the school was performed six days weekly, Monday through Saturday. Students could go to town or do as they pleased at the school during their free time on workdays and all day on Sundays. Discipline at the school was very lax; except for having to go to work regularly, the students could do anything they wished. Drunkenness, petty thievery, and outright stealing were common occurrences at the school.

12. After completion of the six-month course, the students received certificates of training for specific miner's schools. As compensation for education and the expenses borne by the government while in the school, each student had to serve four years in a coal mine to which he was assigned by the school administration. No choice of assignment was given to school graduates.

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